

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated April 6, 2004. Claims 5-27 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-13, 15-23 and 25-27 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Barry et al.* in view of *Matias*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have described the operation of the invention as defined by the claims in the prior response and, therefore, such description is incorporated herein in its entirety.

The Examiner has set forth that *Barry* operates "to provide the rasterized page data for parallel distribution to the inputs of the plural physical print engines." The Examiner has cited Column 3, lines 35-55 to support this. Applicants disagree with this position and interpretation of the reference, however. The *Barry* reference does not provide rasterized page data for parallel distribution; rather, the *Barry* reference provides object data that represents a page which is then sent to a plurality of PEM modules, and which is thereafter rasterized. This is described with respect to Fig. 5 illustrating that each of the PEMs has associated therewith a RIP (147), a page buffer (149) and a marking edge (151). Beginning at Column 7, line 50, each of the modules is described as having a separate RIP associated therewith. There are multiple RIPs such that there will be a parallel RIP operation. Clearly, the present invention, as defined by the claims, is directed toward a single RIP wherein the rasterized pages after RIPing are distributed. In fact, in Column 8, line 4, the *Barry* reference sets forth that a single high speed RIP would increase complexity and, as such, "multiple modified RIPs are provided which allow the overall system speed to be increased without surpassing the performance limitation of the current RIP technology levels that exist to support high speed page printing." (Col. 8, lines 5-9). Therefore, it can clearly be seen that there is not any operation wherein rasterized page data is provided for parallel distribution; rather, all that is provided is parsed page information that must be RIPed at the engine *after distribution*. Further, the Examiner indicates that print job parameters are associated with and "recovered from" the rasterized data, citing the description at Column 3, lines 39-42. Applicants disagrees that this is the case, as there is no rasterized data from which to extract information to thereafter distribute the job.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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With respect to Claims 5, 7 and 18, the Examiner notes that *Barry* does not disclose that the job distributor has a single RIP engine. The Examiner utilizes the *Matias* reference to disclose such information. However, as Applicants have set forth in a previous response, *Matias* fails to provide the RIP engine in such a manner that information extracted from the RIP job after rasterizing for use in distribution of rasterized pages. The Examiner has noted the operation described with respect to Fig. 3 in *Matias* wherein there is a multiplexer that can distribute the information. However, Applicants note that it is not the RIP engine that is input to the multiplexer but, rather, the scanner. The scanner does not provide rasterized information. As such, there is no disclosure of distributing the rasterized information to multiple print engines based upon information in the rasterized page. Further, Applicants believe that the combination of *Matias* with *Barry* is not proper, since there is no motivation to combine. Clearly, *Barry* teaches against utilizing a single RIP in favor of multiple RIPs. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to the rejected claims.

Claims 5-13, 15-19, 22 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Barry et al.* in view of *Dorfman et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the rejected claims.

The Examiner has utilized the *Dorfman* reference as setting forth a printing apparatus in which a single RIP engine processes jobs for plural print engines. The Examiner has cited the specification in *Dorfman* at Column 7, lines 19-67, as providing support for providing rasterized data to the plural print engines according to parameters associated with the rasterized data. However, there is no disclosure wherein information within the rasterized data is used for the purpose of determining how rasterized page data is to be transmitted to one or more engines. As such, Applicants believe that the combination of *Dorfman* and *Barry* does not anticipate Applicants' present inventive concept, as defined by the claims and that such combination is neither suggested nor is a motivation provided therefor due to the fact that *Barry* teaches against utilizing a single RIP in favor of multiple RIPs.

Claims 10, 20, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of *Barry* in view of *Dorfman* and *Matias*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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For the reasons described herein above, the addition of *Matias* to the combination of *Barry* and *Dorfman* does not further cure the deficiencies noted herein above, as neither *Dorfman* nor *Matias* provide the suggestion or motivation for combination with *Barry* in view of the fact that *Barry* teaches against a single RIP and further that none of these references taken singularly or in combination, provide any basis for utilizing data stored in a rasterized page for the purpose of distributing a RIP job to multiple engines as rasterized data. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 10, 20, 21 and 23.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 14 and 24 are objected to and would be allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of the rejected base claims. However, at this time, Applicants do not believe that is necessary in view of the arguments set forth herein above.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/TRSY-23,677 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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June 30, 2004

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